

# Special Education Advisory Panel

## March 13, 2008

### Minutes

#### Attendees

Sherri Tucker  
Lynda Roberts  
Steve Viola  
Theresa Valdes  
Russ Brock  
Jeaneal Alexander  
Ginger Luetkemeyer

Elizabeth Tattershall  
Roxie Lanier  
Angela Brown  
Tammy Hicks  
Kim Oligschlaeger  
Martha Crabtree  
Doreen Frappier

Heidi Atkins Lieberman  
Ray Wicks  
Shirley Woods  
Dorothy Parks  
Bev Woodhurst  
Jerry Neal

#### Not Attending

Sue Alderton  
Brenda Boyd  
Kris Callen

Cathy Einhorn  
Melissa Frazier  
Trish Grassa

Eileen Huth  
Pat Jackson  
Mary Kay Savage

Copies of handouts distributed at the meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

**Call to Order** – Bev Woodhurst called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Introductions were made.

**Approval of Minutes** – Ray Wicks made a motion to approve the December minutes as written. Lynda Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed. Minutes were approved as written.

**Kansas University Transition Coalition** – Mary Morningstar from Kansas University presented information on the work they have been doing on transition activities in partnership with the state of Missouri. Barb Gilpin, Interim Assistant Director, Special Education Effective Practices Section, assisted her in the presentation. To review the PowerPoint presentation, go to [http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/APMhndout03\\_08.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/APMhndout03_08.html). For additional information about the KU Transition Coalition and the Communities of Practice, go to <http://www.transitioncoalition.org/cgiwrap/tcacs/new/index.php>.

**End of Course Exams** – Stan Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, Division of School Improvement indicated that the High School Reform Committee met a few years back and discussed options for reforming schools and helping students. One of the committee's three main goals was to raise the minimum graduation requirement. They formed a subcommittee to look at high school assessment. Two of the options they came up with were end of course exams and the ACT. After much discussion, it was finally decided to go with end of course exams. Next school year there will be end of course exams in three subjects (Algebra I, Biology, and Communication Arts II) that every student in the state will take. This will be field tested this spring. Districts have discretion on how much the test will weigh towards the student's overall grade for that course. The multiple choice portion of the test will be scored and back to the district within five school days. On the written portion within five school days of submitting the test, the district will receive an electronic copy of the student's test, not scored; it can then be scored locally by the teacher. The state will also score but the results will not be available until July. DESE took the current grade level expectations and developed them into course level expectations. The same accommodations that we now have with MAP/MAP-A will be allowed for the end of course exams.

#### DESE Update

- **Dropouts** – In response to the question raised at the last meeting, Heidi indicated while there has been discussion about legislation to change the age for compulsory attendance from 16 to 18 but there is no bill pending in the legislature at this time.

- **Part B Grant Application Follow-up** – The comment period ends next week. No comments have been received yet. April 4 is the end of posting period. It is due to OSEP by May 16.
- **SELS/SELS2** – The Division's main form of communication with districts is through our email group (SELS) which is a limited email group available to only one contact person per school district. Many times, though, the SELS messages were not being forwarded within districts so SELS2 was created. This email group is open to anyone wanting to subscribe (principals, teachers, parents, etc.). It allows subscribers to receive the EXACT same messages as subscribers to SELS. By creating this second email group, all constituents interested in special education will have the opportunity to receive the Division's email messages. A list of archived SELS messages is located at [http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv\\_Archives.html](http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Listserv_Archives.html). SELS2 is a good way for panel members to keep up with what is going on at DESE and will assist panel members in their role of providing DESE with advice. If you are interested in subscribing, contact Lina Browner at [lina.browner@dese.mo.gov](mailto:lina.browner@dese.mo.gov).
- **Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Committee** – DESE created a committee last year which included individuals from institutions of higher education with teacher training programs to look at teacher competencies in regular and special education. The committee was asked to look where there was overlap in teacher training in the core competencies and if additional teacher training courses were needed. If so, could they be integrated into courses already available? As part of the process, the committee conducted a survey of first year teachers, building principals, and administrators. After the information was collected and reviewed, the HQT committee met with approximately 35 representatives from Missouri's institutions of higher education to discuss what changes they were recommending.
- **State Board Meetings – End of course exams** is on the agenda almost monthly. Most of the February meeting got cancelled due to the weather which postponed the **Autism update** and recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Autism Panel. In January, Stan Johnson and Heidi did a presentation on kids in **residential facilities** placed there by Children's Division. There was no December state board meeting.
- **Improvement Grants** – DESE received an incredible response for improvement grants this year. Many of the applications focused on systems change and use of three tiered models of intervention.
- **Deaf Summit** – The Deaf Summit convened by MSD is scheduled for April 25. The topic is what needed to be done to improve literacy for students that are deaf or hard of hearing. The Summit includes key administrators of programs at school districts and schools for the Deaf including oral schools.
- **Applied Behavioral Analysis Scholarships** – DESE has received quite a few applications from employees with school districts. Approximately 18 people were selected to receive a full scholarship with the University of Florida.

**Panel Member Attendance** – Currently, a few members have exceeded the maximum number of meetings they are allowed to miss. The panel's bylaws are specific on what to do if members miss meetings but are not legally binding. The panel discussed and asked DESE to enforce the bylaws as written and remove panel members when they have exceeded the allowable number of meetings as stated in the bylaws.

**Working Lunch - The subcommittees met for approximately one hour.**

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Evaluation** – Lynda Roberts will soon begin working on the annual report. The March meeting is the last meeting counted in this year's annual report. Subcommittees need to submit their reports (June 2007-March 2008) by May 2. Bev will submit the cover letter by May 2 also. The subcommittee will meet around mid May to finish the report and plan to forward to Lina by May 16. Lina will email the report to the panel by May 23 to give panel members two weeks to review prior to the next meeting.

**Rules and Regulations** – Ray Wicks indicated there was nothing new to report.

### **Programs**

- Martha Crabtree indicated that their committee is concerned about teachers receiving temporary and emergency certificates and how this may be affecting students with disabilities. She asked if they could receive information on the number of teachers with alternate certification and in what areas. She also asked about the number of teachers retiring.

- Martha indicated the committee would like to be updated on the status of the Blue Ribbon Autism Panel and the end of course exams (information from the pilot study, etc).
- She also indicated the committee would like information on state schools placement. The committee expressed concerns that children may be placed in the local school district instead of a state school leaving the district trying to determine how to best meet the needs of the student.
- The committee would also like to have Heidi report on MPACT's parent training at a future meeting. They were concerned that some parent advocates while attending IEP meetings with parents sometimes have their own personal agenda instead of what is best for the student.

**Nominations** – Nominations for the chair, vice chair, secretary, and Executive Committee positions should be emailed to Lina by the end of March.

#### **Public Comment**

- Jeaneal Alexander indicated she will be meeting with DESE and Missouri Assistive Technology staff in the near future to discuss creating an email address for SEAP which will be added to the panel's website for the public to use to submit comments via email. Emails received will be reviewed by this committee and a report given at future meetings.
- The panel would like a presentation on Assistive Technology and what is available to students. Bev indicated she would contact Missouri Assistive Technology to see if they could come to the June 6 SEAP meeting to present.
- The panel would also like a presentation on the Missouri Integrated Model.

**Monitoring** – (Formal Recommendation #9) After some discussion, Ray Wicks made a motion that the Monitoring and Executive Committees should get together and discuss whether the child complaint/due process survey should continue (report decision at the June panel meeting). Jerry Neal seconded the motion. Motion passed. It was decided to discuss via conference call. During the conf call, they will also decide on a chair for the subcommittee.

**Adjournment** – Angela Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doreen Frappier seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.